

The Watchman and Southron.

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"Be Just and Fear not—For all the ends That Aught as be thy Country's, Thy Gods and Truths"

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Vol. X, No. 1.

WILSON TO BE CANDIDATE.

Gives Formal Consent to His Name Being Proposed for Renomination.

Unwilling to Enter into any Contest in Order to Become Presidential Candidate. Wilson is Willing to Lead Democratic Forces, if They Desire It—Announces Decision in Letter to Ohio Secretary.

Washington, Feb. 14.—President Wilson today consented formally for the first time to the use of his name as a presidential candidate in the coming campaign. At the same time he declared he was "entirely unwilling to enter into any contest" for re-election.

This definition of the president's attitude, in line with the plans of his political associates, is expected to bring into the open the campaign being made in his favor through the country.

Mr. Wilson's declaration was made in a letter to the Ohio secretary of state, who had written that candidates for delegates from that State to the national convention must signify their choice for president by February 15 and that no presidential candidates could be named in that convention without their consent.

In several other States where no such requirements are imposed Mr. Wilson's name already has been placed on primary ballots, and his friends generally have taken it for granted that he would be a candidate if convinced there was any considerable popular demand for it.

The president was formally notified of the requirements of the law last week and today he wrote Charles G. McElwain, secretary of state of Ohio, as follows:

"I am enclosing to you a letter the contents of which I dare say will be of interest to you. It is a statement of my position in regard to the requirements of the law last week and today he wrote Charles G. McElwain, secretary of state of Ohio, as follows:

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"Accordingly take the liberty of sending you the enclosed letter as formal permission under the statute." The letter the president inclosed was as follows:

"While I am entirely unwilling to enter into any contest for the presidential nomination of the Democratic party, I am willing to permit the use of my name that the Democrats in Ohio may make known their preference in regard to that nomination.

"In order, therefore, to satisfy the technical requirements of the statutes of the State of Ohio, I hereby consent to the use of my name as a candidate for the presidency by any candidate who seeks to be elected a delegate to the national Democratic convention which is to assemble in June next."

This was the first time the president has consented formally to have his name used in connection with the nomination. His name has been placed on the primary ballots in several States, however, through the activities of friends.

The president takes the position that the voters will have to determine whether he will make the race for the presidency in 1916 as the Democratic candidate. In a letter written to A. Mitchell Palmer before his inauguration, Mr. Wilson made it plain that he would be a candidate again only if the Democratic voters desired it.

Political advisers and friends of the president have taken for granted for months that he would be the nominee of his party and have made their plans accordingly. The national Democratic committee has prepared all the campaign material with the idea that he would be the party candidate.

The formal announcement today is expected by Democratic leaders to clarify the political situation throughout the country. Supporters of the president, they said today, now would be able to work for him more openly.

SOUTH CAROLINA HAS GROWN.

Census Bureau Gives Figures of Growth During Past Year.

Washington, Feb. 14.—An important statement was issued here today by the census bureau which shows how the State of South Carolina is growing. The population of the State on July 1, 1915, was 1,601,745; on January 1, 1916, it was 1,616,610, and, estimated July 1, 1916, it will be 1,626,475.

PLEDGE BELGIUM'S FREEDOM.

FRANCE AND RUSSIA WILL NOT CEASE FIGHTING UNTIL NATIONALITY IS ESTABLISHED.

German Capture Trenches and Prisoners at Ypres—Russia Captures Turkish Stronghold in Asia Minor—Submarine Sunk.

Paris, Feb. 16.—England, France and Russia have given their solemn pledge that they will not make peace until the independence of Belgium has been restored. This was made public in the official announcement today.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE ERZERUM.

Strongest Turkish Fortress in Asia Minor Falls Before Grand Duke. Petrograd, Feb. 16.—Erzerum, the strongest Turkish fortress in Asia Minor, is reported to have been captured by the Russians.

GERMANS HOLD TRENCHES.

English and French Attempts to Recapture Positions Repulsed. Berlin, Feb. 16 (Official).—Attempts by the English and French to recapture the positions taken by the Germans have all been repulsed. The Germans took one hundred English prisoners southeast of Ypres.

THREE SUBMARINES SUNK.

French Cruisers Destroy Tension U Boats. Paris, Feb. 16.—Three Tension U submarines have recently been sunk in the Adriatic by French cruisers, according to the Echo de Paris.

BRITISH COMMANDING GRAIN.

London, Feb. 16.—The British government is commandeering all grain. The distilleries of Great Britain and Ireland have been taken under national control. The prices of grain have increased nearly 50 per cent.

EXPLOSION CAUSES INJURY.

Heat When Range Tank Stays up. Florence, Feb. 15.—Mrs. R. E. DuBose, wife of the manager of the Vaughn Furniture company, was very seriously injured this morning by the explosion of the hot water tank of her kitchen range. The water pipes had frozen in the night and this morning Mrs. DuBose went into her kitchen to get some hot water for her invalid mother, and it is probable that she opened the valves of the tank which had not been drained and allowed a rush of cold water into the pipes of the range, causing the explosion. The stove was smashed. Fire, smoke and steam poured out into the room. Mr. DuBose rushed in, not knowing that his wife had gone in there at all, and seeing the cook out of danger began to fight the fire in the blinding smoke and steam. He heard a groan at his feet, and feeling along the floor, discovered the body of his unconscious wife. He got the ambulance from the Florence infirmary as quickly as possible and the victim was given all the assistance possible. She is badly injured by the broken pieces of the iron stove and the scalding steam. Her face and head are badly cut, and the complete loss of one eye is feared.

The physicians at the infirmary will not make any statement in regard to the case as yet.

There were several other explosions of hot water tanks due to the sudden freezing of the pipes last night, but this was the only casualty so far reported.

SEABOARD LIMITED WRECKED.

Crack Train Ditched Near Raleigh—One Killed and Two Injured. Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 15.—The Florida Limited, the crack train of the Seaboard, was wrecked near here this morning. One person was killed and two injured. The train was bound for New York.

Fireman James Holloway was crushed to death and Engineer Wells and Fireman Stockwell were badly scalded. No passengers were injured.

FLIES WILSON'S NAME.

Illinois Committeeman Puts it on Ticket. Springfield, Ill., Feb. 15.—Charles Boeschstein, Democratic national committeeman for Illinois, today filed with the Secretary of State the name of Woodrow Wilson as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president.

TURKS LOSE HEAVILY.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE 40,000 PRISONERS AND MANY GUNS AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF MUNITIONS.

Erzerum's Fall Proves Severe Blow to Turks—Russians Will Now Attack Line of Supplies to Mesopotamia—Turks at Same Time Claim to Have Gained Big Victory over British.

Petrograd, Feb. 17.—Forty thousand Turks, a hundred and ten guns and a great quantity of munitions were captured at Erzerum. A part of the Turkish army succeeded in escaping, but the pursuing Russians inflicted terrific losses on them. The Turkish losses in killed and wounded are estimated at twenty-five thousand. The Russians are now expected to attack the Turkish lines of communication supplying Mesopotamia.

Quiet on Western Front.

Paris, Feb. 17.—The official reports state that nothing of importance occurred during the night on the western front.

Turks Claim to Have Annihilated 2,000 British Troops.

Constantinople, Feb. 17.—The loss of two thousand British troops in a fight near Kutelamara is reported by the war office today. Near Aden the British detachment was cut off and annihilated.

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR QUIT.

George T. Marye, Envoy to Russia, Resigns Post Because of Physical Condition. Petrograd, Feb. 16 (via London).—The resignation of George T. Marye, American ambassador to Russia, which has been sent to Washington, is regarded as coming at an especially inopportune moment in view of the fact that Charles S. Wilson, the new secretary of the embassy, has been transferred and is leaving at once for Madrid. Mr. Marye gave ill health as the reason for desiring to leave Petrograd.

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LUSITANIA CASE CLOSED.

SO STATES BERNSTORFF AFTER CONFERENCE WITH LANSING.

New Note From Berlin Regarded as "Practically Satisfactory" and Will be Submitted to Wilson for Approval.

Washington, Feb. 16.—"The Lusitania incident is as good as settled. I believe a complete statement showing this will be forthcoming from the State department Friday morning," announced Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, after an eleven minutes' conference with Secretary Lansing today. He said that Lansing considers the amended agreement as submitted by Germany as "practically satisfactory" and he will submit it to the president for approval.

LANSING POLICY REVERSED.

United States Will Not Acquiesce in German Policy Against Armed Merchantmen.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The United States will continue to press the request that European belligerents disarm all merchant ships. Although the president reversed Secretary Lansing's planned policy of acquiescence in the proposed Teutonic policy that merchantmen carrying guns could be attacked by submarines without warning, the question will be held open. The president's reversal of the secretary was due to Col. House's cable to the president stating that the reversal of the original policy of the United States permitting liners to carry guns for defense at present would be dangerous as Great Britain and France would consider such a step an unfriendly act.

MAY AFFECT TOBACCO GROWERS.

Expected They May Suffer as Result of Great Britain's Ban on Importations.

London, Feb. 16.—With two years supply on hand, both for domestic consumption and manufacture for export to other countries, British to-

bacco growers are expected to suffer as a result of the order prohibiting importations, but they are all speculating as to what effect it will have upon American growers.

Tobacco improves with holding and wholesalers and manufacturers can wait the resumption of regular commerce, but the growers may suffer by a price slump, it is felt.

The annual domestic consumption is about 100,000,000 pounds while the amount reexported in manufactured form is 38,000,000 pounds, so that the 278,000,000 pounds in British warehouses assures a two-year supply for the United Kingdom. Ninety per cent. of this came from the United States, this amount making Great Britain America's best individual customer.

LOVETT-CAIN.

Kingstree Marriage of Interest to Sumter People.

The marriage of Miss Leola Lovett of Kingstree and Mr. J. Scott Cain of this city at the home of the former's brother, near Kingstree, on Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock is an event of social interest to many people of this city and county, where both of the contracting parties are well known.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr. Pritchard in the presence of only the members of the family and a few intimate friends. There were no attendants and the affair was altogether informal. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Cain left for Sumter, where they are staying for the present at Mrs. Manning Brown's on Church street.

Mrs. Cain has lived in Sumter for a number of years and has many friends here, who will welcome her as a permanent resident. Mr. Cain is a native of this county and has been living in town for several years, where he is employed by the Booth-McLeod Supply Company.

Blind Man Leaves Jail in Bethune.

Bethune, Feb. 16.—Henry Stephens, a young white man, who has been totally blind for several years and who lives about six miles above here; Sid Shearn, another white man, and two negroes, Sentry Holmes and Henry Hunter, were arrested here Saturday afternoon and put in the guard house for selling whiskey. During the night Stephens, the blind man, and his white companion broke out of the calaboose and escaped. Pocket blind tigers have been quite busy around this town for some time, especially on Saturday afternoon.

SEEKING A CANAL.

GERMANY'S PROPOSITION TO NICARAGUA FOR LAND.

Details of the proposition are Not Known, but Senator Stone is This as Reason for Early Ratification of Treaty by America.

Washington, Feb. 14.—That Germany had offered Nicaragua a larger sum than the United States for an option on the Nicaraguan canal route was urged in the senate today as an argument for early ratification of the pending treaty.

Several senators said they had been informed in the course of the debate that Germany had long sought an option on the canal route; that efforts first were made soon after France undertook construction of the canal and were renewed more recently.

Members of the foreign relations committee denied reports that there was documentary evidence in possession of the committee on the subject.

"Of course we have heard such reports that Germany sought to obtain the Nicaraguan canal route," said Senator Stone, chairman of the committee. "Whether she offered \$8,000,000 or \$12,000,000 or \$20,000,000 I do not know. We have no means of knowing. That Germany was actuated by the same motives in seeking this canal route that France had in the original Panama enterprise is apparent. Personally I think it would be to the great political disadvantage of the United States for any European government to have control of a canal route across the Pan-American isthmus."

Champions of the pending Nicaraguan treaty are said to have cited Germany's desires in urging its ratification, Nicaragua having agreed to accept the \$8,000,000 offered by the United States for the canal option and naval base in Fonseca bay.

Senator Stone said late today that he had deferred asking for a vote on the treaty until next Thursday, several Democratic senators having notified him that they could not be present until that time.

PROTESTS FROM SALVADOR.

Objections Made to Bay of Fonseca Treaty.

San Salvador, Salvador, Feb. 14.—Protests by several municipalities of Salvador against the pending treaty between the United States and Nicaragua have been sent to Senators Borah, Smith, Clarke and Root.

Similar action has been taken by individual representative men of the republic in calling the attention of the press of North and South America to their opposition to the treaty.

BETANCOURT TO LEAVE.

Colombian Minister Thinks Pact Will Not be Satisfactory.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Recognizing the probability that the pending treaty between the United States and his country will not be ratified by the senate in its original form, Julio Betancourt, the Colombian minister, has asked his government for a leave of absence from Washington. It is understood he will seek permanent withdrawal if the treaty is rejected or the senate accepts its foreign relations committee amendments reducing the indemnity for the partition of Panama from \$25,000,000 to \$15,000,000 and making the expression of regret mutual.

In a statement tonight Mr. Betancourt referred to the state of his health, which, he said, made it necessary for him to leave Washington.

ROOT FOR PRESIDENT.

New York Republicans Endorse Root for Head of Ticket.

New York, Feb. 16.—By a vote of 36 to 8 the committee on resolutions of the Republican State convention refused endorsement of Gov. Charles Whitman and adopted a resolution advocating the nomination of Root for president.

An amendment later endorsed the Whitman administration. On motion to reconsider the Root endorsement was beaten. Whitman will be one of the delegates at large to Chicago.

ATLANTA MERCHANT SUICIDES.

Shoots Himself on Account of Financial Worries.

Atlanta, Feb. 15.—S. H. Feldman, aged 55 years, a well known merchant, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head this morning in the bath room of his home. Financial worries are said to be the cause,